



October Meeting

Friday, October 9
8:00 PM

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA**

Note that due to Pacificon, the October meeting is one week earlier than usual.

Emergency News and Views

By Robert P. Hampton, KF6FGH, MDARC Emergency Coordinator

Utilities in dangerous surroundings—Today we just had a 7.0 quake and the first thing I must do is go and turn off all the utilities, right? STOP!! WRONG.....

You should not turn off utilities unnecessarily, as it may be days or weeks after the event before a PG&E, or Water Service Technician can get to you to turn them back on. (It took many many days for the Utility's personnel in Los Angeles to contact residents and resume especially their gas service during their "big one"! Many turned them off unnecessarily. *Never turn the gas or pilot(s) on yourself.* Always have a certified technician check out the gas lines and fixtures for leaks, and turn the gas and pilots back on for you!

I will again only give you some *basic* guidelines for when and if you should turn "off" or "on" your utilities. I will break this down to water, gas and electricity.

Water, the staple of life and the product that helps put out fires! If you have a broken pipe or sink, you have a couple of valves that you can turn off. The first is at the fixture itself, like right under a sink, or behind the commode. This will allow the water to flow to the rest of the house for drinking or "very small" fire fighting. I say "very small" because if a fire is any larger than a single item in your house, or if there is extensive smoke, it is not worth your life trying to fight it with a garden hose. I have taken fire fighting school in the Navy for aircraft carrier duty on the ol' Coral Sea (CVA-43), and I can tell you a little garden hose on a moderate size fire is like spitting out a bonfire. Your not going to win!as I digress to my younger years!

Anyway, the other location to turn off your water is at the base of the water main attached to your house or apartment. This is usually a knob just below your main outside garden hose pipe. On apartments it may be located on a side wall of the building, or in a shared garage area. This will isolate the house itself, and possibly your lawn water pipes (ABS, PVC schedule 40 pipes, etc). It could be that your Main Pipe going to your home is broken. In that case, you may have to turn your water off at the street.

This is the compartment near your sidewalk or street usually with a concrete lid and a little slit where you can insert a large screwdriver or the back of a wrench to lift. (This is also where the water company turns off your water and locks it when you don't pay your bill, ouch!). I found I could not get to the valve until I removed 2 buckets of dirt that accumulated over the past couple of years (which is great if they come to shut off my water for "nonpayment", but *bad* in an emergency). Here's where the digging in the nice hot sunshine I mentioned in the last article comes in! You may want to grab a small hand shovel and get the dirt out now before a crisis comes along and you can't get to the valve fast enough! Learn how to operate that valve? Overall, if you have a leak or broken pipe try to turn off the valve that is closest to the leak. This will give you other resources within your house for that good ol' H₂O.

Next let's deal with the gas! Oh so comforting, yet so dangerous! Again you can turn off the gas at the location of the break. For instance, your stove, wall or floor heater, dryer, etc. Try turning it off at the local valve behind or under the appliance. If you cannot find or secure the gas leak locally you can turn off the gas at the GAS Meter usually outside of your home or apartment. This is usually a gray unit with 5 or 6 small dials that measure your gas usage. On the input pipe connected to the gas meter is a valve with a slot/valve sticking out (also gray!)

This gas valve is "ON" if it lines up with the pipe in-line with the direction of the gas flow. It is "OFF" when it crosses the pipe and looks like it blocks the flow! It only takes a ¼ turn (either direction) to shut it off completely! Sometimes this valve may get stuck over time. You can take a crescent or pipe wrench and only turn it less than 1/16 turn to make sure it is free to turn in an emergency. This is like turning it from high Noon on a clock to just 1 o'clock only. That should be enough to break it loose if

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first of day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to w6uv@home.com (preferred), w6uv@dnai.com, or delivered to the editor at the address listed below. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII, Word for Windows, or WordPerfect format. Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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441.325/+ (100 PL)

ATV: In 1253.25 Out 427.25 (Cable Channel 58)

Emergency News and Views

continued from page 1

seized! (Turning it any more will shut off the gas and you will have to get a PG&E or other Gas Service Technician to turn it back on for you!)

If you find your Gas Meter itself is leaking there should be a master turnoff valve at the street. You will have to hunt for this one. It usually will have a cap that says PG&E (or equivalent). Now the important stuff.... Do not turn off your main gas unless there is absolutely a leak, and you cannot turn it off directly at the appliance.

If you have a gas leak, *do not* turn on or off any lights, flash lights, slam any screen doors, scuff your feet on your carpet, etc. as all these actions may generate a spark and *kaboom!!!* Also *do not* light any stoves, candles or lighters for the same obvious yet deadly reasons! You may not need to turn off your gas if there is a fire beyond the house next door to yours on any side. In other words, if there is a fire "2 doors down", most likely you do not have to turn your gas off! Use your own judgment! As I advised before, once you have turned off the gas to an appliance, only a certified Gas Service Technician should check for leaks, turn your gas back on and light your pilots! It's a matter of life and a horrible death!

If you smell gas, try to turn off the appropriate gas valve (only if safe to do so, but *do not* touch any electrical switches (lights, breaker box switches fuses, or other potential sparking mechanisms, etc). If you cannot secure the gas leak, walk out of your house and call 911, *fast!*

Now the other biggie, your *electricity!* Now you should know where your master fuse boxes are (inside and/or outside of your home)? If not, find it now, *fast!* Know how to turn the breakers or fuses on and off. Some work with plug-in (twist type) fuses and others with circuit breaker switches. If yours is the type with plug in fuses, always keep and use the correct "amperage" spares. Never use a different amperage fuse than what is called for in a particular fuse slot or socket, else a fire may start

from overheating the wiring within your dwelling! (Too much amperage for a given wire's load rating limit may overheat said wire and burn down said dwelling!)

If you must turn off your power, for instance because a fire in your home, the smell of burnt wiring, or arching, turn it off at the master fuse box and get out fast, and call 911. *Do not fight electrical fires with water!*

Now these are just some basic guidelines. You can learn more from your local Fire Department and Utility companies, and also from your Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (N.E.R.T.) training. Be prepared and practice your home emergency drills and family relocation contacts. Know where everyone will meet during a crisis at home and away? BE SAFE..... Also show your neighbors how to help themselves to prepare for a disaster. It may be your life or house they save!!!

(If you have any rebuttals, corrections or additional information to add to these articles, please let me know so we can get it corrected ASAP... I want to see everyone safe and prepared out there!)

Till next time, 73 to all, and keep those radios with ya at all times, and your batteries charged! Are you having fun talking on your radios this

summer? Dust off your older rigs and show us newer folks how they work! We sure do enjoy seeing them ol' ones glow!!!!_

Holiday Party Date Set

The MDARC Social Committee has announced Tuesday, December 8 as the date for the annual club holiday social. The party will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette, the club's normal meeting location. The doors open at 6:00 pm with dinner following at 7:00 pm. More details will follow in next month's Carrier.



Pacificon 1998 Forums

By Greg Estep, KE6VTA

Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE and Ray Gaschk, W6FYA have put together a fantastic line up of Forums and Antenna Forums for PACIFICON. The Antenna Forums are on Friday and are \$10. The other forums which are included in your PACIFICON ticket start on Friday afternoon at 1400 with Amateur Radio in Emergency Communications. On Saturday the QRP forums start at 0800 and the General Forums start at 0900 with International / US Amateur Radio.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Forum or Event</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Friday	0800	NEC, Numerical Electromagnetics Code	Jerry Burke
	0900	DXpeditions and Antennas	Mike Staal, K6MYC
	1015	Antenna Basics	Steve Schwartz
	1115	Class ERF Amplifiers for Amateur Use	David Rutledge, K6EK
	1315	Propagation Forecasting Software	Ed Farmer, AA6ZM
	1400	Amateur Radio in Emergency Comm	Mark Keiser, N4OGL
	1415	Antenna Testing, RF Anechoic Chamber	Rob Hill
	1530	Quick and Easy Field Day Dipoles	Jim Jones, N6UGH
	1530	Non-profit Inc. for Amateur Radio	Mark Keiser, N4OGL
	1600	Questions and Answers	All Antenna speakers
	1600	Conformal Antennas	Rob Hill
	1700	GPS, Land Navigation and Emerg. Comm.	Jim Brunk, N6BHX
	1700	The Bay Area Hospitals Net	David F. Otey
	1800	History of Air Force MARS	Dennis McCord, AC6WP
Saturday	0800	A QRP Field Day: Antennas and Locations	Roy Lewallen, W7EL
	0900	A QRP Field Day: Selected Topics	Roy Lewallen, W7EL
	0900	International / US Amateur Radio	Rod Stafford, W6ROD
	1000	The Practical Side of Antennas	Tom Schiller, N6BT
	1000	Rising to the Challenge Baker to Vegas	Zonker Harris, N6UOW
	1000	Cheap and Easy Homebrew Cabinets	Bill Jones, KD7S
	1000	YL Forum	Beth Murphy-Stickney, KD6CDR
	1000	Giving Sight to the Visually Impaired Ham	Guide Dogs For The Blind, Inc.
	1100	License Restructuring	Brad Wyatt, K6WR
	1100	Designing the NorCal 20	Dave Fifield, AD6AY
	1100	Latest Technology and Emergency Comm	Sharon Wahlig
	1300	VHF Contesting	Tim Marek, K7XC
	1300	The 4 Keys	Rick Lagerstrom, KN6FR
	1300	Propagation Charts and How to Use Them	Ade Weiss, W0RSP
	1300	Giving Sight to the Visually Impaired Ham	Guide Dogs For The Blind, Inc.
	1400	The G3RJV Six-Pack	George Dobbs, G3RJV
	1400	The New Ni-mh Battery	Robert Syms, KO6ZL
	1400	LA NINA	Robert Benjamin
	1400	How to Operate QRP Contest in the Field	Joe Gervais, AB7TT
	1400	Laser Communications	Jim Moss, N9JIM
	1500	Understanding the Current Solar Cycle	Paul Harden, NA5N
	1500	Spotters	Robert Benjamin
	1500	VHF/UHF Weak Signal Work	Chuck, KC6ARU
	1500	10 GHz Communications	Rex Allers, KK6MK
	1600	Transmitter Hunting	Rich Harrington, KN6FW
	1600	The Secrets of VHF Antennas	Mike Staal, K6MYC
	1800	DX Ambassador	Thomas Jones, K6TS
Sunday	0900	Hang Gliding and Ham Radio	Bob Trimby
	0900	Living Your Dreams - IOTA Dxpedition	Barry Bettman, K6ST
	0900	T-Hunt For Beginners Only	Rich Harrington, KN6FW
	1000	DX'ing for the Beginner	Mike Polkinghorn, K6PUD
	1000	Using the Beacons to Work DX	Bob Fabry, N6EK
	1000	T-Hunt For All	Rich Harrington, KN6FW
	1000	Eventing	Rick Lagerstrom, KN6FR
	1100	The Computer Graphics of Pixar	Bruce Perens, K6BP
	1100	PDARRL Web	Dr. Mal Raff, WA2UNP
	1200	NO-CODE	Bruce Perens, K6BP
	1200	Multi-turn-element HF Loop Antenna	Peter Demmer, KH6CTQ
	1300	ARRL forum -- Until 1500	Brad Wyatt, K6WR
	1400	Northern CA Packet Assn General Mtg	Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU

Board of Directors Minutes

Sept. 14, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Sam Lipson, KO6JR, at 7:30 p.m. at Emil Villa's Restaurant, Concord. Other officers and directors present: Sect'y Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Treasurer Greg Estep, KE6VTA, Directors John Stuart, KM6QX, Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, and Keith Lattin, N6PMF. Committee Chairmen present: RRRG—Jim Brunk, N6BHX and Howard Burk, KE6PTT, Social—George Roush, WB6OFH (in part) and Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT.

Greg, KE6VTA noted a need for more

help at Pacificon.

George, WB6OFH, and Tracey, KE6TOT, updated the Board on plans for the holidays party, now scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8. They were making contacts with caterers. George also noted that \$492 of the allocation for the picnic was not used.

Jim, N6BHX led a discussion of RRRG business:

- packet radio is up on 144.39 MHz.
- ATV group is working on a 10 gig input with a backup of 2.4 gig; they are also working on remotes.
- they are working on the installation of the 220 box.
- RFPs are out for a 2 m filter.

e) miscellaneous other items.

Keith, N6PMF, noted that the trailer was being redone inside due to water damage, etc., and it now was insulated, with carpet, etc.

Sam reported that the Nominating Committee would report a slate of officers and directors for next year as follows: President, Greg Estep, KE6VTA, Vice-President, Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, Secretary, Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Treasurer, Marie Lewis, KF6GLV, Directors continuing, John Stuart, KM6QX, Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, Keith Lattin, N6PMF, and Cal Groom, KE6OEH. Emergency Coordinator, Robert Hampton, KF6FGH.

Look for the
HRO Home Page
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John, KB4NUC, Mgr.
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Rick, AA008, Mgr.
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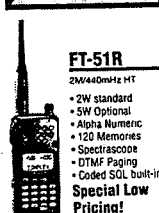
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Treasurer Greg Estep, KE6VTA, noted the balance in the Treasury was on target with the budget.

The 1997 Audit Review of the Club was performed by Greg Estep, KE6VTA, Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, and Tom Seabury, KO6RO. They reported that the books and records were in order, and transactions were documented. The Board **approved** the acceptance of the report.

Sam reminded the Board that ARES/RACES training on operations would occur Sat., Sept. 19 at the San Ramon Fire HQ.

As a result of the referral by the membership at the general meeting, the Board discussed the suggestion to establish a club station. Since there was no information on who would use the station or how many and how often, the matter was tabled.

The performance of the printer of the *Carrier* was discussed. Tracey, KE6TOT was going to follow up.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Technical Committee of RRRG would

be at 8:30 on Oct. 3.

Sam adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

Found

Found with my things: an owner's manual for a TRC-219 Citizens band 3 watt 3 channel walkie talkie. (At the auction). Who ever bought the walkie talkie can have the owner's manual.

73 Mary-Jane
458-3164
n6nva@juno.com



MDARC Picnic '98

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Egg Insulators	Ball Mounts	Mic Plugs/Connectors	Radio Handbooks
Dog Bone Insulators	Gutter Mounts	PL-259s, BNC and "N"	Spectrum Charts
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In downtown Concord between Willow Pass Road and Concord Blvd.



Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Repeater Operation Rules

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club maintains and operates high-quality, wide-coverage repeaters for the use of all amateur radio operators. Operation and use of these repeaters shall comply fully with the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) regulations of the Federal Communications Commission's Private Radio Service, and the following rules of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club:

1. The repeaters are provided for the purposes of contacting and passing information between fellow amateur radio operators, and providing service to the public as a voluntary, noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
2. In the spirit of the Amateur Radio Service, users shall respect and support each other in a courteous and positive manner.
3. Due to the wide coverage of the repeaters and the club's large membership, the length of QSOs should be kept to a minimum. Conversations shall be limited to 10 minutes during commute hours; 6:00-9:00 am and 4:00-7:00 pm. Operators should always pause before transmitting, to allow another station to break in. Please use simplex frequencies or HF bands for "rag-chewing."
4. Operators shall announce their call sign before transmitting any touch-tone commands, at the end of each communication, and every ten minutes or less during a communication.
5. There shall be absolutely no communications containing obscene, indecent, or profane words, language, or meaning. Discussion of political or potentially sensitive social issues shall be avoided.
6. No one shall cause or condone the malicious or intentional interference of anyone's communications on the repeaters.
7. Operators shall not communicate with, or discuss the actions of, anyone who violates these rules.
8. Control Operators are required to turn off a repeater to terminate improper operation or use.
9. The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors reserves the right to forbid the use of the repeaters by anyone who repeatedly violates these rules, or anyone who facilitates or encourages others to violate these rules.



NETS

W6CX Nets

APRS Net Tuesdays 1930 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 PL)
 Net Control: Barry, KC6WYA

Phone Net Thursdays 1930 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 PL)
 Net Control: Jay Caldis, KT6Y

ATV Net Thursdays 2000 Hours
 Net Control: Mike Burke, KB6RMT
 Alternate: Sylvia, KC6YJV

Youth Net Thursdays 1900 Hours
 147.060/+ (100 PL)
 Net Control: Jeff Burke, KE6YAW

Contra Costa County Emergency Services HF Net

First Thursday following first Wednesday, 2000 Hours, 3.895 MHz. Net Control: Richard Shappee, WA5HQJ

Sheriff's Amateur Radio Communications Team

Clay Yale, N6YBQ
 (510) 228-8223

CCRA Net

Mondays 1935 Hours
147.735- 145.49- 145.41- PL: 107.2

CCCC Net

Thursdays 1930 Hours
145.11- PL: 82.5

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursdays, 1900 Hours

Central County 145.680 Simplex
 Jim Brunk*, N6BHX
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East County 146.535 Simplex
 Jim Tittle*, KC6SOE
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South County 146.355/+ (100 PL)
 Ed Ritchie*, K6SFD
 (510) 837-3265

West County 145.110/-
 Rich Parker*, KD6JCT
 (510) 237-2777

QSY to 147.735/- (107.2 PL) at 1920 Hours
 Meeting of all County ARES/RACES Nets
 Sam Lipson, District Emergency Coordinator, KO6JR
 (510) 229-5705

* Assistant District Emergency Coordinator

W6CX Signal Strength Report Form

The Rocky Ridge Repeater Committee is trying to determine how our new antenna location has affected coverage. We would appreciate it if as many members as possible would fill out and return the attached form. If you operate from multiple locations, with multiple radios or antennas or on multiple MDARC repeaters, please copy the form and submit one for each location, radio, antenna and repeater. Please fill it out as completely as possible, but if there is some information you do not know don't let that stop you from sending it in. The more replies we can get the better we will be able to evaluate our coverage and make plans for improving it.

Please send your replies to Jim Brunk, N6BHX. Mailing address: 514 Palms Drive, Martinez, CA 94553. E-mail: brunk@ix.netcom.com or via the DesignLink BBS. This form is also available on the MDARC Web Page and on the DesignLink BBS.

If you are using a "beam" antenna, be sure it's pointed at the top of Mt. Diablo.

Which repeater? • 147.060 • 224.780 • 441.325

Length and type of coax (if any):
 Type of receiver:

Your location (city and cross streets please):

Received signal strength:

Height of your antenna above ground:

Are you using a preamp? If yes, how many dB gain?

Type of antenna:

Comments? (Please include any pertinent information such as if there is a big hill directly between you and the top of the mountain.)

Gain claimed by antenna mfr.:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 5	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Emil Villas, Concord
October 9	8:00 pm	MDARC Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
October 16-18		Pacificon '98	Concord Sheraton
October 31		November <i>Carrier</i> Deadline	
December 6	1:00 pm	Sunnyvale VEC Exams Gene Capener, WW6H, 510-254-5090	Consolidated Fire Training Center 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord 1st Sunday even months

The Carrier
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P.O. Box 23222
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